[19th November 1948

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" We are aware of the smoke they emit, though we are not aware of the public opinion, and we do not know whether public opinion counts in this matter. Whatever it is, we were in correspondence with their agents and they have replied recently stating that they have deputed their engineer to look into this matter; and we are corresponding with their Agent in India just now."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister has ever travelled in the Diesel bus in the City of Madras? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I did." (Laughter.)

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Did he not then feel this nauseating smell, which makes it impossible for one to continue a journey of three to four miles? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I do not know whether passengers inside get the nauseating smell; only pedestrians outside on the road get this smell." (Laughter.)

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Are these Diesel buses cheaper than charcoal buses? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I do not know, Sir. A separate question may be put."

Charcoal buses.

* 74 *Q.*—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have directed the Central Road Traffic Board to remove the ban on charcoal buses;

(*b*) if so, whether the ban has been removed and permits issued to applicants for charcoal buses;

(*c*) if not, why it has not been removed;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that permits are freely issued for charcoal lorries;

(*e*) why the charcoal buses are refused permits;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that operators, who have diesel oil buses suitable for long distances, are also refused permits to run on the roads when there is no ban on them;

(*g*) whether the Government propose to issue orders for grant of permits for charcoal and diesel oil buses; and

(*h*) whether the Government propose to issue orders to grant permits for petrol buses also on new routes pending nationalization?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" (*a*) The Government have asked the Central Road Traffic Board to instruct

the Regional Transport Officers to lift the ban on gas plant vehicles in those districts in which the charcoal position has improved,

" (b) The ban has been removed in certain districts,

" (c) The question of lifting the ban in the other districts is under the consideration of the Central Road Traffic Board.

" (d) The answer is in the affirmative,

" (e) The ban on grant of permits to charcoal buses was imposed owing to the unsatisfactory position of charcoal supply. It is being removed gradually as the position shows improvement,

" (f) The answer is in the negative,

" (g) Regarding permits for charcoal buses the Hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (a). No instructions are necessary regarding diesel buses.

" (h) Instructions have been issued for grant of petrol for buses on new routes in those districts in which the charcoal position is still acute and in districts where the tracts are hilly."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the Central Road Traffic Board do not issue permits to gas plant vehicles on new routes? That is why I put this question."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Just now petrol position has improved a little, and the position with regard to gas plant vehicles is being reviewed from time to time, because the question of availability of charcoal in the districts is to be taken into consideration. With regard to diesel buses there is no ban at all."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Do Government intend to introduce gas plant buses in the City at present?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Not at present."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Are Government aware that gas plant buses are running satisfactorily at present in Madura district?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" It is quite possible. The Central Road Traffic Board insists that as far as possible gas plant vehicles should be run."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Will Government investigate into the running expenditure of diesel buses to see whether charcoal buses are not cheaper, and if so, will they introduce charcoal buses in the City of Madras?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" A comparison between the two is yet to be investigated. I do not know which is cheaper. The question of introducing charcoal buses in the City of Madras does not arise now."